

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1164

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2001

EXPLORATION BLOCKS OFFERED UNDER NELP

BIR SING MAHATO;GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE;TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has approved New Exploration Licensing Policy;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) the number of licenses issued for oil exploration alongwith the names of licenses under the NELP-II so far;
- (d) the basis under which these licenses have been issued;
- (e) whether foreign investors have shown interest in the field; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b):- The New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), which provides a level playing field for both private and public sector companies for the award of exploration acreages, was approved by the Government in February, 1997. The salient features of NELP are given in Annexure-I.

(c) The bids for exploration of oil and gas in 25 blocks under the second round of NELP have been invited on 18.12.2000. Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) will be issued after award of blocks and signing of PSC for the respective blocks.

(d) PEL for the blocks awarded under NELP are issued as per the authority vested under the Petroleum and Natural gas Rules, 1959, as amended from time to time.

(e) & (f) :- As against the first offer of blocks made under NELP, a total of 25 blocks has been awarded. Out of these, 16 exploration blocks have been awarded to the foreign private companies/consortium of companies having foreign companies as member. The company wise details of these blocks are in Annexure-II.